

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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P 231930Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8882

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0700

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS; MILI, EAIR, MARR, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED QUESTION: TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL EDITORIAL

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EDITORIAL ENTITLED "SOME REASON FOR
CAUTION" PUBLISHED IN THE TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL,
FEBRUARY 23:

"CANADA CAN NOT BE ACCUSED OF HAVING RUSHED INTO ITS DEAL TO
BUY 18 LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT FROM LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT
CORPORATION, THE COMPANY THAT, BY THE ADMISSION OF ITS
OWN CHAIRMAN, JUST RETIRED, HAS USED BRIBERY OF OFFICIALS
AS A COMMON ACCESS ROUTE TO INTERNATIONAL SALES.

"IN SPITE OF THE PRESSURE OF SALES PITCHES MADE ON
LOCKHEED'S BEHALF BY SUCH PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN VISITORS
TO OTTAWA AS ADMIRAL RALPH COUSINS, SUPREME ALLIED
COMMANDER FOR THE ATLANTIC OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY
ORGANIZATION, AND JAMES SCHLESINGER HIMSELF, SHORTLY
BEFORE PRESIDENT GERALD FORD FIRED HIM AS DEFENCE
SECRETARY, CANADA WAITED CLOSE TO FIVE YEARS BEFORE
DECIDING ON A REPLACEMENT FOR THE AGED ARGUS: "WHETHER
THIS WAS FAR-SIGHTED SHREWDNESS OR MERE PRO-
CRASTINATION MAY BE DEBATABLE. BUT THE PRECEDENT FOR
CAUTION IS THERE AND DECENCE MINISTER JAMES RICHARDSON
SHOULD FOLLOW IT NOW IN CHECKING OUT ALL POSSIBLE JOKERS
IN THE DECK BEFORE DECIDING THAT THE DEAL IS STILL ON.

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ZIF A THOROUGH CANADIAN INVESTIGATION CONFIRMS

MR. HAACK'S ASSURANCES, AND IF OTTAWA IS SATISFIED THAT
LOCKHEED CAN STAY ON ITS FEE AND DELIVER, THE ORION
AIRCRAFT MAY STILL BE THE BEST BUY. BUT THIS IS A
\$950-MILLION DEAL. AND LOCKHEED'S CUSTOMERS HAVE BEEN
GIVEN REASON FOR CAUTION.
ENDERS

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